THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Excise raids in Gujarat

2613. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) how many raids were conducted by Excise department in Gujarat during 1984, 1985 and 1986;

(b) total amount of excise tax evasion found during these raids;

(c) how many cases have been settled; and

(d) total amount of tax realised alongwith penalty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected from the field formations and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Cases lost by New Bank of India

2614. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases lost by New Bank of India in Delhi during the last two years and amount involved therein; and

(b) what action has been taken on the responsible officers and advocates and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) The New Bank of India has reported that 3 cases involving a sum of Rs. 45,716.94 were lost by their Bank in Delhi during the last 2 years. In two cases appeals have been filed.

The cases have been considered by the Bank for punitive measures against those found negligent. While the cases of officers have been entrusted to appropriate authorities for examination, one firm of advocates who did not take active interest in the case has since been removed from the panel of Advocates maintained by the Bank.

Foreigners arrested under Customs Act

2615. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreigners arrested under Customs Act since 1st April, 1986;

(b) whether any diplomats have also been detained while smuggling during the same period; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) During the period from 1st April, 1986 to 31st January, 1987, 423 foreign nationals were arrested under the Customs Act throughout the country, in connection with smuggling activities. During this period, 3 cases involving diplomats were also detected. Diplomats involved in smuggling activities are not arrested/detained as they enjoy diplomatic immunity in terms of the Vienna Convention. However, the matter is taken up with the countries concerned and they are generally recalled from India.

As the number of foreign nationals involved is large, the details of all the cases are not furnished. However, if Hon'ble Member desires to have information in respect of any particular case (s), the same will be collected and furnished.

Penal action against cumpanies in arrear of excise duty

2616. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 744 given on 11th November, 1986 and state:

(a) whether these are any fixed guidelines to be followed by the officials in taking penal action against

those companies which have central duty arrears in excess of Rs. 5 crores in any given year;

(b) whether taking action (penal) is left to the officer concerned or to a board; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) Instructions are issued from time to time to facilitate streamlined and concerted action for expeditious recovery of arrears of excise duties, irrespective of the amount involved, for guidance of officials in this regard. Recovery of arrears of excise duty is an ongoing function and such measures like legal administrative and others as are considered necessary continue to be taken.

Review of Era Sezhiyan Committee report on L.I.C.

2617. DR. BAPU KALDATE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to review the recommendations of the Era Sezhiyan Committee to split and reorganise the Life Insurance Corporation; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Vacancies of part time non-official Directors of nationalised banks

2618. DR. BAPU KALDATE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the vacancies of part time non-official directors on the Boards of Directors in almost all the 20 nationalised banks have not been filled since January, 1985;

(b) if so what are the detais thereto; and

(c) what steps are being taken to fill these vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) At present vacancies of non-official directors exist on the Boards of all the 20 nationalised banks. These vacancies have arisen since January, 1985. The process of identifying suitable persons for these vacancies has not yet been completed.

Accountability of the huge loans given by Nationalised Banks

2619. DR. BAPU KALDATE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1382 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th November, 1986 and state:

(a) since no central authority monitoring of credit camps, and no data as to reporting system is available, what are the other venues for accountability of the huge loans given by Nationalised Banks; and

(b) whether any special audit by Public Chartered Accountants Firms is made of the Credit Camp loans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI) : (a) and (b) According to Reserve Bank of India loans sanctioned for the Credit camps are also required to be monitored as any other loans subject to the usual procedures/norms. No special audit by Chartered Accountants is made for loans sanctioned for the Credit Camps.